

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W  
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R 041620Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8389  
USDOC WASHDC

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USDOC FOR OIM MICHELINI AND MEPD CONGER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BPRO, EPAP, GB  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE US INVESTMENT IN GABONESE FOREST  
PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

1. GOG MINISTER MINES AND ENERGY MBOUY-BOUTZIT ASKED ME  
CALL ON HIM OCTOBER 4 CONCERNING POSSIBLE INTEREST OF US  
FIRMS IN MAJOR FOREST CONCESSION AND RELATED INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN GABON.

2. ACCORDING TO MBOUY-BOUTZIT, HE LEARNED FROM UNNAMED  
FRENCH INTERMEDIARY (IDENTIFIED ONLY AS GRANDSON OF COUNT  
OF PARIS) OF AMERICAN FIRMS EXPLORING POSSIBLE INVESTMENT  
IN THIS FIELD IN GABON. IN PARTIAL CORRESPONDENCE HE MADE  
AVAILABLE (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO MICHELINI, CONGER AND  
AF/C BLODGETT), FIRMS INVOLVED ARE (A) ELMENDORF RESEARCH  
INC., 230 PARK AVE., NEW YORK AND 860 CHARLESTON ROAD,  
PALO EZTO, CALIF.; (B) LEONARD GUSS ASSOCIATES, INC.,  
4041 RUSTONQAY, TACOMA, WASHINGTON; AND (C) COLUMBIA  
ENGINEERING (NO ADDRESS AND NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED).  
TWO LETTERS OFFERED (ONE FROM EACH OF FIRST TWO FIRMS  
NAMES ABOVE) SUGGEST THAT THEY WERE GIVEN PROJECT PAPER  
OF UNKNOWN PROVENANCE TO STUDY, AND RAISED SERIES OF  
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN SEARCH OF FURTHER INFORMATION.

3. MBOUY-BOUTZIT ADDED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF  
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AMERICAN FIRMS WERE REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO VISIT GABON

LAST MAY, BUT HE HAS SINCE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM THEM OR ABOUT THEIR SUPPOSED INTEREST. HE NOTED THAT HE CURRENTLY CONTROLS CONCESSION AREA IN SOUTHERN GABON COVERING OVER 600,000 ACRES WHICH HE COULD ARRANGE TO PUT AT DISPOSAL OF FIRMS WILLING INVEST IN THIS COUNTRY. AREA OF CONCESSION LIES BETWEEN MOUILA AND MIMONGO, MBOUY-BOUTZIT'S HOME AREA, WHICH HE SAYS HAS LAGGED IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BADLY NEEDS STIMULUS WHICH SUCH FRZ INVESTMENT COULD PROVIDE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE USDOC OR DEPT. OFFICE CONTACTING FIRMS IN QUESTION TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF THEIR INTEREST IN PURSUING PROJECT HERE. EARLY RESPONSE WOULD BE HELPFUL SO THAT WE CAN REPLY TO MBOUY-BOUTZIT. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRMS WOULD ALSO BE MOST WELCOME AS ELEMENT IN OUR RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL INQUIRY. STEIGMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WOOD PRODUCTS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 SEP 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** BPRO, EPAP, GB, US  
**To:** STATE COM  
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